

### Why Join a Garden Club?

- To be a member of the largest volunteer gardening organization in the world

- To learn more about the environment to improve the quality of life for everyone

- To be a part of activities for involvement including horticulture, environmental studies, garden therapy, conservation and preservation of natural resources and historic sites, roadside beautification, basic design courses and flower arranging; supporting Georgia's botanical gardens, installing Blue Star Markers and Historical Trail Markers, etc.

- To provide student scholarships in study fields related to our objectives, i.e., agriculture, ecology, horticulture landscape architecture, horticulture, environmental issues and historic preservation

- To sponsor youth activities, youth resources and school ground improvements

- To belong to an organization offering continuing education with Flower Show/ Environmental/ Landscape Design/ Gardening Design Schools and Symposia

- To be a part of a movement establishing bird and tree sanctuaries and urban backyard habitats for wildlife, birds, bees and butterflies

- To learn about environmental landscape management and native plants

- To develop your leadership skills by learning how to educate your community on air quality, beautification, litter control, recycling, clean water practices, groundwater protection, landscaping and legislative issues

- To become a better informed citizen by receiving information on pending legislation affecting our environment and learning what actions to take to deal with the issues

- To support wildflower and native plant symposia

### WHO DO YOU BELONG TO?

- **National Garden Clubs, Inc. (NGC)**  
located in St Louis, MO (8 regions; ~165K members; ~5K clubs)
- **The Deep South Garden Clubs Inc. (DSGC)** (6 states: AL, FL, GA, LA, MS, TN)
- **The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. (GCG)** (~9K members; ~300 clubs; ~24 councils; ~14 plant societies & affiliates)
- **7 Districts** (Laurel 01; Azalea 02; Oleander 03; Camellia 04; Magnolia 05; Dogwood 06 and Redbud 07)
- **Council/Federation** (if applicable)
- **Garden Club** (club number begins with two-digit district number: 0X-XXX)

### Where Did We Begin?

In January 1891, the *first garden club in America* was organized by 12 ladies in an antebellum room in **ATHENS, GEORGIA**—The Ladies' Garden Club!

### NOW: GCG Headquarters\*

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**GCG Mission:** *The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. is a statewide, non-profit organization whose mission is Beautification, Conservation and Education (BCE).*

This mission is accomplished by encouraging garden clubs to participate in projects and programs of their choosing.

### Communication

#### GCG website:

[gardenclubofgeorgia.org](http://gardenclubofgeorgia.org) (master calendar; upcoming events; registration forms; state/district/club news; DSGC & NGC news & convention info)

- **Constant Contact** reach every member

#### Facebook

[facebook.com/gardenclubga](http://facebook.com/gardenclubga)

#### Garden Gateways

Quarterly newsletter (state dues help cover printing & mailing costs. Send any address changes to GCG Headquarters\*)

#### The National Gardener

Free NGC quarterly magazine. Download at [www.gardenclub.org](http://www.gardenclub.org)

#### Club Meetings set by clubs

#### Council/Federation Meetings

several times a year, if applicable

#### Annual District Meetings

Held in October; state President, officers & board members attend. Clubs rotate hosting; ALL members are invited and encouraged to attend!

#### District Board Meetings 2/year

#### State Conventions

Districts rotate hosting & location; short convention held even years in Macon; full convention held odd years with installation of officers for 2-year terms. Business meetings, speakers, workshops, educational displays, award winners & life memberships

- **DSGC:** [deepsouthgardenclubs.com](http://deepsouthgardenclubs.com)

- **NGC:** [gardenclub.org](http://gardenclub.org)

### MEMBERSHIP IS THE KEY TO GCG!

#### FOLLOW THE 3 R'S:

#### ☆ RECRUIT ☆

Invite! Invite! Invite! Guests = New Members

- **New Members:** Friends from work, church, neighbors, strangers at garden centers & symposia. Invite to a new member orientation and assign a garden club "buddy"

- **Subscribing Members (\$25/yr):** Family members, guest speakers, local city officials, etc.

- Use **Membership Business Cards w/contact info**

#### ☆ RETAIN ☆

- Provide interesting, varied & entertaining programs

- Make garden club FUN--Allow time for socialization

- Friendships = club attendance

- Use a printed agenda to keep business short and to the point. Start and end the meeting on time.

- Make everyone feel welcomed

- Plan fun events for members

- Inform members of educational opportunities

- Recognize those serving as district & state officers & board chairmen giving visibility to your club.

- Contact absentees & encourage attendance

- Involve ALL members in club activities—everyone wants to feel needed and useful.

#### ☆ REVITALIZE ☆

- Encourage participation in district and state events & recognize those attendees

- Change meeting location/time once in while

- Form car pools to attend field trips, plant sales, district/state events; night meetings, etc.

- Plan a meeting with a "getting to know you" theme. You'll learn something new about someone you knew

- Celebrate long-time club members with certificates, awards, etc. and highlight them in newsletters, etc.

- Mentor and encourage members to attend Leadership & Awards Workshops to prepare for new leadership positions

- Rotate officers/chairmen. Encourage members to serve in different positions.